

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1 – 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol  
5 server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network connection, the  
method comprising the steps of:

issuing a request for a customer premises equipment network address from the  
customer premises equipment to the configuration protocol server via the network  
connection;

10 the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the  
configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment  
by sending a temporary network address and a lease time to the customer premises  
equipment, whereby the lease time limits the time of validity of the temporary network  
address;

15 issuing a request to renew the temporary network address when the lease time  
expires; and

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the  
configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment  
by sending an acknowledge message.

20 32. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising the steps of:  
when the network connection determines that the connection can be made to the  
configuration protocol, the network connection sending a NACK message declining to  
acknowledge the request to renew the temporary network address;

25 the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK message and sending a request for  
the customer premises equipment network address; and

the network connection communicating the request for the customer premises equipment  
network address to the configuration protocol server.

33. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the network connection comprises a communications device for connecting the customer premises equipment to a local network, the local network being connected to the data network via a network interconnection device.

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34. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 33, wherein a temporary configuration server resides in the communications device.

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35. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 33, wherein a temporary configuration server resides in the network interconnection device.

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36. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the network connection comprises a communications device for connecting the customer premises equipment to a local network, the local network being connected to the data network via a network interconnection device.

37. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a temporary configuration server resides in the communications device.

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38. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a temporary configuration server resides in the network interconnection device.

39. (New) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

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issuing a request for a customer premises equipment network address from the customer premises equipment to the configuration protocol server via the network connection;

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment

by sending a temporary network address and a lease time to the customer premises equipment, whereby the lease time limits the time of validity of the temporary network address;

issuing a request to renew the temporary network address when the lease time expires; and

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an acknowledge message.

10 40. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the network connection comprises a communications device for connecting the customer premises equipment to a local network, the local network being connected to the data network via a network interconnection device.

15 41. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the communications device includes a cable modem, the local network includes a cable network and the network interconnection device includes a cable modem termination system.

20 42. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the configuration protocol server is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

43. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the customer premises equipment network address used by the customer premises equipment is an Internet protocol (IP) address.

25 44. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the lease time is less than 10 seconds.

45. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the data network includes a connection to the Internet.

46. (New) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

issuing a request for a customer premises equipment network address from the customer premises equipment to the configuration protocol server via the network connection;

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a temporary network address and a lease time to the customer premises equipment, whereby the lease time limits the time of validity of the temporary network address;

issuing a request to renew the temporary network address when the lease time expires;

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an acknowledge message;

when the network connection determines that the connection can be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection sending a NACK message declining to acknowledge the request to renew the temporary network address;

the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK message and sending a request for the customer premises equipment network address; and

the network connection communicating the request for the customer premises equipment network address to the configuration protocol server.

47. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the network connection comprises a communications device for connecting the customer premises equipment to a local network, the local network being connected to the data network via a network interconnection device.

48. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 47, wherein the communications device includes a cable modem, the local network includes a cable network and the network interconnection device includes a cable modem termination system.

5 49. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the configuration protocol server is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

50. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the customer premises equipment network address used by the customer premises equipment is an Internet protocol (IP) address.

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51. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the lease time is less than 10 seconds.

52. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the data network includes a connection to the Internet.